
Comprehensive Plan

All exhibit elements described in order of presentation



Exhibit 1 - Introductory Exhibit: Dunker Church

Exhibit Objective
P-01-000

To introduce the principal park themes in the visitor center lobby and to reinforce through historic photography the personal tragedy of the conflict. To establish the time period and date of the battle.

Title
L-01-001

Antietam

Subtitle
L-01-002

September 17, 1862

Primary text
L-01-003

“When I think of the battle of Antietam, it seems so strange. Who permits it? To see or feel that a power is in existence that can and will hurl masses of men against each other in deadly conflict—slaying each other by the thousands...is almost impossible. But it is so—and why, we cannot know.”

Dr. William Childs, Surgeon,
5th New Hampshire Infantry, October 1862

Caption
L-01-004

Two days after the battle, Alexander Gardner took this photo of dead Confederate soldiers and a crippled artillery limber in front of the simple, white-washed Dunker Church. Standing out against the dark West Woods, the church was a landmark for attacking soldiers.

Antietam was the first American battlefield photographed before the dead were buried. This photo was taken less than one hundred yards from where you are standing.

B/W photo
G-01-005

Historic photo taken by Alexander Gardner of dead Confederate soldiers in front of the Dunker Church. West Woods in the background. Artillery wagon in foreground.

Digital graphic layout
D-01-D01

Large mural in lobby. Includes elements 001-005. The only graphic is a large historic photo. Produce in three sections

Exhibit 2 - Artifact Display Case

Exhibit Objective
P-02-000

To display selected artifacts from the Snyder Collection which form a personal, eyewitness connection with the battlefield.

Title
L-02-001

The Litter of Battle

Primary text
L-02-002

Aaron Snyder of Keedysville was 10 years old at the time of the battle. Like many others, he collected relics on the battlefield after the fighting. The items in this case are part of his collection.

Photographs taken shortly after the battle confirm that the ground was thickly littered with the debris of war. With each surviving object there are unanswered questions. Who was the boy in the jacket? Did one of these bullets kill a beloved father or son? Did a verse from this New Testament give comfort to a dying soldier?

B/W photo
G-02-003

Historic photo of Aaron Snyder

Caption
L-02-004

Aaron Snyder

Subtitle
L-02-005

A Generous Gift